

Stimulus News You Can Use

WSDOT's informal weekly update about the
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act)

Wednesday, October 14, 2009



The stimulus story this week

Washington submitted a new accountability report to the White House Office of Management and Budget on October 9. The WSDOT reporting included funding, delivery, and employment updates on state and local highway, transit, and ferry projects. A new sidewalk improvement project began in Grays Harbor County. This week's project of the week spotlights contractors installing rumble centerline rumble strips in Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman Counties.

This week by the numbers (project dollars in millions):

<i>Individual highway projects</i>	State	Local	Total	Notes
Total funds	\$340	\$152	\$492	
Obligated funds*	\$222.6 (65%)	\$134.8 (89%)	\$357.4 (73%)	Funds FHWA approved All funds must be obligated by March 1, 2010
Projects certified	39 (100%)	153 (100%)	192 (100%)	New projects were certified this week
Projects obligated	36 (92%)	141 (92%)	177 (92%)	FHWA has approved some or all funds for the projects
Project delivery to date				
Operationally complete	13 (33%)	35 (23%)	48 (25%)	Four local projects reported complete this week
Awarded	29 (74%)	135 (88%)	164 (85%)	Includes completed projects
Advertised	31 (79%)	136 (90%)	167 (87%)	Includes completed and awarded projects
Certified, awaiting advertisement	8 (21%)	17 (11 %)	25 (13%)	These projects, including several receiving surplus funds, are planned for upcoming advertisement
<i>Safety funding buckets (\$12 stimulus)</i>	Rumble strips	Cable median barrier	Total	Notes
Completed	10	0	10	10 projects completed this week
Awarded	17	6	23	Includes only state Recovery Act funds
Advertised	27	7	34	Includes only state Recovery Act funds
<i>Transit projects</i>	Large urban	Small urban	Nonurban/rural	State total/Notes
Percent of total \$179 awarded	97%	97%	100%	98%
Number of transit projects obligated	33 of 35	18 of 19	20 of 20	52 of 55 FTA counts all rural projects as one project
<i>August employment</i>	State	Local	Total	Notes
Payroll	\$5	\$4.3	\$9.3	Average wage is \$37/hour

<i>August employment</i>	State	Local	Total	Notes
Hours	130,386	121,739	252,125	Up from 144,308 total hours in July
FTEs	754	704	1,458	FTE = 173 hours per month
Individuals paid in part or total with stimulus funds	2,220	3,213	5,433	Note: Not a count of unique employees. September data will be available next week.
*\$4M in state enhancement funds provided to locals. While WSDOT controls \$340M, the total for obligation authority is \$344M, which is the basis of the percentages in this table, and basis for USDOT Review on 3/01/10.				

Key issues: State

- WSDOT submitted major Recovery Act accountability report** – On October 10, WSDOT submitted a new quarterly stimulus performance report to the White House Office of Management Budget. The report included employment, funding, and project delivery data on state and local highway funding and transit funding. The Washington state data will be included in a national review of the stimulus performance and will be available to the public online later this month at www.recovery.gov.
 - The next report will be submitted in January.
- More Recovery Act projects certified on October 12** – Governor Gregoire certified six additional projects to receive stimulus funds. Two local and two state highway projects were selected from prepared local and state Tier 2 lists of ready-to-go projects. The two new local stimulus-funded projects replace projects that will no longer be receiving Recovery Act funds. Two transit projects that received national Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) grants last week were also certified.
 - WSDOT – I-90/Two-Way Transit – Transit and HOV Improvements (Stage 1)
 - WSDOT – I-5/North Kelso to Castle Rock – HMA Overlay of Concrete
 - Arlington – Gifford Avenue Sidewalk
 - Snohomish County – 84th St. NE Overlay
 - C-TRAN – Energy Saving Facility Improvements
 - Link Transit – 5 Electric Trolleys with 2 Docking Stations
- Four more Recovery Act highway projects completed** – Local governments across Washington finished four more Recovery Act highway projects, bringing the number of completed projects to 48. The projects improved roads in Columbia, Lewis, and Whatcom Counties.
 - [Sumas – Bob Mitchell Ave](#)
 - [Lewis County – Davis Lake Road](#)
 - [Lewis County – Jackson Highway](#)
 - [Dayton – Dayton Avenue Overlay](#)
- Sidewalk improvement project is under way in Hoquiam** - Contractor crews began work October 12 on a three-mile sidewalk improvement project in Grays Harbor County. The project will improve pedestrian mobility on US 101 from Myrtle Street to Endresen Avenue and SR 109 from Emerson Avenue to West Emerson Avenue.

- The \$1.8 million project is expected to support an estimated 15 direct, indirect, and induced jobs. Hoquiam received \$195,000 in stimulus funds for the project, a partnership between the city and WSDOT.
- **Two more Tier 2 highway projects awarded** – Both projects received surplus stimulus funds due to low bids on other Recovery Act highway projects. See the [Tier 2 website](#) for more information about how low bids have helped stretch Recovery Act funds to advance additional projects.
 - [WSDOT – US 195/Hatch Rd to Jct I-90 – Dowel Bar Retrofit - NB](#)
 - [Port of Seattle - East Marginal Way Grade Separation](#)

Key issues: National

Vice President Biden’s second report said 170 projects were rejected or modified – In his second quarterly [stimulus report](#) to the President, Vice President Biden said federal agencies rejected or modified 170 projects originally slated to receive Recovery Act funds, including nine transportation projects nationwide.

- **House T & I Committee panel reviews high speed passenger rail** – A subcommittee of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is holding a hearing October 14 on “High-speed rail in the United States – Opportunities and Challenges.” See the [committee’s website](#) for more information. The Recovery Act included \$8 billion for high-speed rail projects and the Federal Rail Administration will announce selected projects this winter.
 - WSDOT has submitted HSIPR applications for more than \$1.3 billion. See the WSDOT High-Speed Passenger Rail [website](#) for more information.
 - Witnesses include FRA Administrator Joseph C. Szabo, Amtrak Chairman Thomas Carper, Government Accountability Office Director Susan Fleming, and Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary Frank Busalacchi.
- **Recovery Act highway projects under construction nationwide** – The FHWA [website](#) reported that 4,088 stimulus projects costing \$11.3 billion are under construction in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and on federal lands. The FHWA has obligated \$19.3 billion of \$26.8 billion (72%) to 7,999 projects.

Stimulus project of the week

Stimulus funded project will help reduce crossover collisions

Contractor crews working for WSDOT began construction on a safety project in eastern Washington aimed at reducing crossover collisions.

The Recovery Act is funding this project which will install [centerline rumble strips](#) on 86 miles of



state highways in Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman counties. North Star Enterprises, Inc. of Liberty Lake is the prime contractor on the job with a construction bid of \$314,413.

Centerline rumble strips are a proven low-cost method of dramatically reducing crossover collisions by alerting inattentive drivers that they are crossing into oncoming traffic. The rumble strips will be installed on US 195 from just north of Colfax to Rosalia. On US 395, the strips will go in from Loon Lake to Colville in Stevens County. In addition, centerline rumble strips will be installed on the full length of SR 902 except inside the City of Medical Lake. Federal Stimulus funding allowed WSDOT to add another 18 miles to the project on US 195.

This project is another example of how federal stimulus dollars are putting people to work and providing projects that will have lasting safety benefits long after the work is done.

Important dates

- **October 14:** Congressional hearing on high-speed rail
- **October 20:** Next congressional status report due
- **October 30:** [Recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov) to publish OMB performance reports online
- **November 10:** Washington's second monthly performance report due
- **January 10:** Next quarterly report due to OMB
- **February 17:** Deadline for the U.S. Department of Transportation to announce TIGER grants and High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail awards (both are expected earlier)
- **March 1:** Deadline for obligating federal highway funds

Websites of interest

- WSDOT recovery act website: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/funding/stimulus>
- Washington recovery act website: <http://www.recovery.wa.gov/>
- Federal recovery act website: <http://www.recovery.gov/>
- FHWA recovery site: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/economicrecovery/index.htm>
- Federal Transit Administration recovery site: www.fta.dot.gov/recovery
- Federal Rail Administration recovery site: www.fra.dot.gov/us/content/2153
- Federal Aviation Administration recovery site: <http://www.faa.gov/recovery>
- OMB recovery website: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/recovery_default/